

Avoid using chlorine bleach as it can be hazardous when combined with other elements in waste water

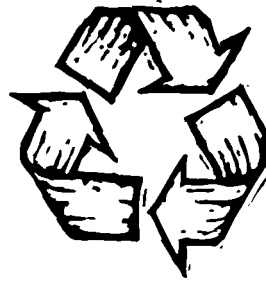


Contact Information

City Engineering/Stormwater Drainage
(719) 385-5980
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Colorado Water Protection Project
(303) 861-5195
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El Paso County
Solid Waste Management
(719) 520-7878
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Substitutes for Household Chemicals

Vol. IV: Bathroom and
Laundry Room



Did you know stormwater runoff in El Paso County is not treated, but goes directly into our streams and creeks? That is why it is important to insure that pollutants such as pet waste, soaps and dirt from car washing, automotive fluids, trash, garbage and chemicals do not end up in the storm drains.

Water washing over the land can pick up an array of contaminants that can run off into or streams and creeks either directly or through our storm sewer systems. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that pollution from this runoff is the largest cause of water quality problems in the U.S.

Everyday personal actions you take can have a significant impact on the water quality of our local streams and creeks. Remember that while the individual household might contribute only minor amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or a city is serious.

Household Chemicals

As a homeowner you can help, simply by substituting environmentally friendly agents for the harsh chemicals normally purchased for use around the house. Being a responsible home owner means not only keeping the areas you live in clean and safe but also means reducing contaminants in our local waterways.

In the Bathroom

Scrubbing

- Try baking soda when scrubbing surfaces clean and wipe surfaces with vinegar/water solution.

Floors/Toilets

- Mix 2-3 teaspoons each of borax and liquid dish soap in 2 quarts of hot water. (Replaces products that contain chlorine and hydrochloric acid.)

Mildew Removal

- Borax with warm water as needed. (Replaces products that contain pesticide.)

Mold growth prohibitor

- Apply full-strength white vinegar.

Toilet bowl cleaner

- Combine baking soda and vinegar.

Ceramic tile cleaner

- Combine 1/4 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup white vinegar, one gallon warm water, and one cup ammonia.

Porcelain cleaner

- Mix cream of tartar and water into a paste.

In the Laundry Room

Stains

- **Blood stains**

Use club soda and cold water to remove fresh blood stain. Then blot with a clean cloth.

- **Chocolate stains**

Blot stains with club soda.

- **Weak stains**

Water and vinegar.

- **Tough stains**

Soak the spot in a mixture of 1/4 cup borax and 2 cups of cold water before washing.

- **Grease stains**

Rub corn meal and water into stain then rinse with lemon juice before machine washing.

- **Sweat stains**

Weak water solutions of white vinegar, lemon juice or aspirin can be used as a pre-soak to remove stains.

Soak clothes in a solution of corn meal and water.

Whitening

- Washing soda will give the same results as bleach.